United Nations ST/IC/2008/39

Secretariat

22 July 2008

Information circular*

To: Members of delegations and staff

From: The Under-Secretary-General for Management

Subject: **First day of issue — 8 August 2008: "Sport for Peace — Games of the XXIX Olympics, Beijing" stamps and souvenir sheets**

Commemorative stamps

1. On 8 August 2008, the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) will issue a set of six commemorative stamps and three souvenir sheets on the theme "Sport for Peace". The stamps were designed by Romero Britto of South America.

2. The stamps, in a mini-sheet format of nine stamps on each sheet, will be issued in the denominations of $0.42, $0.94, SwF 1.00, SwF 1.80, €0.65 and €1.30. The three souvenir sheets will be issued in the denominations of $1.25, SwF 3.00 and €2.10.

(United States equivalents: SwF 1.00: $0.96; SwF 1.80: $1.72; SwF 3.00: $2.87; €0.65: $1.01; €1.30: $2.02 and €2.10: $3.27; subject to exchange rate fluctuation.)

* Expiration date of the present information circular: 8 September 2008.

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3. In conjunction with Olympic Expo Beijing 2008, a limited quantity of overprinted euro-denominated souvenir sheets will also be issued on the same day. UNPA is the first Postal Administration to use a unique printing process that involves metallizing the stamp paper in gold foil and printing offset white and the four-colour process.

4. To commemorate the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, UNPA will also be issuing a new personalized special event sheet on the same day. The sheet is composed of ten 94-cent stamps with a stamp image designed by Romero Britto. The Chinese zodiac sign "Year of the Rat" and the text "Sport for Peace" with Olympic rings will appear on the tabs of the stamps alternately.

General information

5. For the convenience of collectors, UNPA at Headquarters will provide prepared and cancelled New York, Geneva and Vienna first-day covers on the UNPA official first-day cachets only. Members of delegations and the staff can obtain these items on Friday, 8 August, at the following locations:

(a) The UNPA sales counter in the concourse of the General Assembly Building, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.;

(b) The temporary sales counter located on the east side of the Secretariat lobby, in front of the windows, between the cafeteria and the news-stand, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

6. First-day-of-issue cancellations can be obtained at a temporary United States Postal Service substation located outside the United Nations Bookshop in the concourse of the General Assembly Building from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

7. Information on United Nations stamps can be accessed on the Internet at http://unstamps.un.org.